



General Assembly

Substitute Bill No. 6604

January Session, 2009

* _____HB06604ET_____031909_____*

AN ACT CONCERNING PUBLIC ACCESS TELEVISION CHANNELS.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Assembly convened:

1 Section 1. (NEW) (*Effective from passage*) Any community antenna
2 television company or nonprofit organization providing community
3 access operations that supplied original programming from locally run
4 operations and provided funding to town-specific programming on
5 January 1, 2008, shall continue to fund town-specific programming in
6 such proportions to funding for original programming from locally
7 run operations as of January 1, 2008.

8 Sec. 2. Section 16-331s of the general statutes is repealed and the
9 following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from passage*):

10 (a) A company issued a certificate of cable franchise authority shall
11 be subject to the community access programming and operations
12 provisions set forth in subsections (b) to [(i), inclusive, and subsections
13 (k),] (l), inclusive, and (n) of section 16-331a and any regulations
14 pursuant thereto, and subsection (c) of section 16-333, as amended by
15 this act, and any regulations pursuant thereto.

16 (b) A company issued a cable franchise authority certificate shall
17 provide transmission of the Connecticut Television Network to all its
18 subscribers, including real-time transmission as technically feasible.

19 Sec. 3. Subsection (b) of section 16-331cc of the general statutes is
20 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
21 *passage*):

22 (b) The moneys in said account shall be expended by the
23 Department of Public Utility Control as follows: (1) Fifty per cent of
24 said moneys shall be available to local [community antenna television
25 and video advisory councils; state-wide community antenna television
26 and video advisory councils; public, educational and governmental
27 programmers and] public, educational and governmental studio
28 operators [to subsidize] whom the Department of Public Utility
29 Control requires to file annual community access provider reports, for
30 subsidizing capital and equipment costs related to producing and
31 procuring such programming, and (2) fifty per cent of said moneys
32 shall be available to boards of education and other education entities
33 for education technology initiatives.

34 Sec. 4. Subsection (c) of section 16-333 of the general statutes is
35 repealed and the following is substituted in lieu thereof (*Effective from*
36 *passage*):

37 (c) The Department of Public Utility Control shall adopt regulations
38 in accordance with chapter 54 requiring each community antenna
39 television company or holder of a certificate of cable franchise
40 authority to [maintain] provide to all of its subscribers at least [one] the
41 number of specially designated, noncommercial community access
42 [channel] channels, including all town-specific channels, that its
43 predecessor community antenna television company or its affiliate
44 provided or made available to [the public] all of its subscribers in a
45 given area as of January 1, 2008, and establishing minimum standards
46 for the equipment supplied by such company for the community
47 access programming and requirements concerning the availability and
48 operation of such [channel] channels. The regulations adopted
49 pursuant to this section shall not require a community antenna
50 television company or holder of a certificate of cable franchise
51 authority to employ a specific transmission technology or protocol and

52 shall not specify the use of digital, analog or other carriage, provided a
 53 community antenna television company or holder of a certificate of
 54 cable franchise authority shall not discriminate in the signal quality,
 55 functionality or accessibility that it provides on the basis of the
 56 commercial or noncommercial status of a channel.

This act shall take effect as follows and shall amend the following sections:		
Section 1	<i>from passage</i>	New section
Sec. 2	<i>from passage</i>	16-331s
Sec. 3	<i>from passage</i>	16-331cc(b)
Sec. 4	<i>from passage</i>	16-333(c)

Statement of Legislative Commissioners:

In section 1, the first reference to "January 1, 2008" was added for clarity.

ET *Joint Favorable Subst.*